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# Tripura administration orders probe into engagement of Bangladeshi labourers









Agartala | Monday, Apr 10 2017 IST

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The administration ordered probe into the allegation of engagement of Bangladeshi migrants as labourer in brick kilns of Tripura while opposition parties demanding high level enquiry into the political patronise of illegal migrants in the state. However, home department officials said after an accident of brick loaded trucks in South Tripura last week had revealed that a large number of Bangladeshi nationals were engaged in the brick kiln and one

child labour was killed and few other Bangladeshi were injured in the accident. According to report, more than 52 brick kilns have been operating in Southern parts of Tripura and most of them have engaged Bangladeshi nationals as labourers illegally and neither local administration nor labour department officials got to know the issue till April 3 last. "We have asked all the district magistrates to find a ground level report of such engagement or involvement of illegal foreigners in industrial and manufacturing units or in any kind of business in the state besides, tabbing on the cross border movement of civilians," said a senior officials of home department. Police however, stated that all the police stations and surveillance units of security forces including BSF to keep a close watch on civilian movements in respective localities and strengthen surveillance on business and industrial activities in the state. Meanwhile, Labour Minister Sahid Choudhury said the department was directed to collect the profile of all the labourers and employees engaged in more than 350 brick kilns operating in Tripura and further asked them to be strict on compliance of labour laws to all business establishments. "We shall not allow any kind of illegal activity in the state and whoever violates the rules, he will be dealt with seriously under law. After the incident in South Tripura all concerns have been asked to be extra vigilant over migrant labourer issues," Mr Choudhury stated.

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The reports of Bangladeshi workers' engagement in the brick kilns of South Tripura district had rattled the administration and the particular brick kiln owner is on run after the accident, however, legal action has been initiated against the erring owners and related others, he added. A truck carrying Bangladeshis from a brick kiln met with the accident on its way to border through which the workers were supposed to sneak back to their own territory on April 3 last in Belonia. After the accident, police arrested as many as 11 Bangladeshi labourers out of total 40 who were then in the truck. The arrested labourers were sent to judicial custody. Allegedly, brick kilns in bordering areas of Tripura have been running with illegal Bangladeshi nationals who were crossing the border everyday and going back in the evening. Besides, several rickshaw pullers, patty traders, barbers and construction workers in bordering town of Tripura including Agartala are Bangladeshi. They have been engaged through middlemen and the matter is known to police and administration. But for unknown reasons, there was no action against the illegal foreigners in the state. And these people are being used for organised crime in the state, alleged Congress legislator Ratan Lal Nath. A large number of Bangladeshi has been entered into the electoral roll of Tripura. They Managed passport, ration card and other important Indian documents with the help of the leaders of ruling CPI(M) party and enjoying dual citizenship. There is several records of involvement of Bangladeshi nationals staying in Tripura in terrorist activities in different parts of India, he alleged. "To find out the truth of nexus of CPI(M) party with illegal Bangladeshis need NIA probe and I requested union home minister Rajnath Singh to pay serious attention on it for India's interest," Mr Nath added.UNI BB BM

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